

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL TURN (POUCH)
AMCONSUL TRIESTE (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13636

LIMDIS

USEEC

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT IT
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PERTINI

1. I HAD AN EXTREMELY CORDIAL FORTY-MINUTE MEETING THIS
MORNING WITH THE NEW ITALIAN PRESIDENT, ALESSANDRO PERTINI.
AFTER EXPRESSING DELIGHT WITH THE PIPE WHICH I PRESENTED ON
MRS. LILLIAN CARTER'S BEHALF THE PRESIDENT PAID A LENGTHY
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TRIBUTE TO MRS. CARTER, EMPHASIZING HER SPONTANEITY, HONESTY
CHARM AND HER COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO HELPING THE
POOR. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING: QUOTE LISTENING TO MRS.
CARTER, I FELT I WAS HEARING MY OWN MOTHER END QUOTE.

2. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO OUTLINE THE MAJOR FOREIGN
POLICY THEMES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, PLACING

EMPHASIS ON THE COMMON OBJECTIVES WE SHARE WITH PRESIDENT PERTINI, SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS, DISARMAMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE, REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND HELP TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT PERTINI SAID HE WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL COMMITMENT IN THESE AREAS AND ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SOUGHT TO TRANSLATE THESE COMMITMENTS INTO SPECIFIC ACTION. HE ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OPEN FRIENDLY AND MODEST PERSONAL STYLE: QUOTE I AM GRATEFUL FOR HIS SMILE. I HAVE KNOWN TOO MANY HARD-FACED MEN IN MY LIFE END QUOTE.

3. TURNING TO ITALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS I STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERED ITALY A KEY COUNTRY IN THE INNER-MOST CIRCLE OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AND OUTLINED THE MAIN ELEMENTS IN OUR QUOTE STRATEGY OF COOPERATION ENDQUOTE. PRESIDENT PERTINI REACTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY, PARTICULARLY WHEN I SPOKE OF OUR EFFORTS TO HELP ITALY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

4. PRESIDENT PERTINI INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT THAT ITALY NEEDED UNDERSTANDING AND HELP FROM ITS FRIENDS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO FORCE THE PCI INTO POSITION AND URGED OUR COMPREHENSION OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY WITH THE PRESENT
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GOVERNING FORMULA. ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT INTENDED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE PCI I FELT IT WAS APPROPRIATE IN THE LIGHT OF HIS REMARKS TO SUMMARIZE OUR POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT, I.E. NON-INTERFERENCE IN ITALY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS COUPLED WITH OUR CLEAR PREFERENCE THAT COMMUNIST PARTIES NOT ENTER THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR WESTERN ALLIES. I ADDED THAT WE HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CLARIFY THIS LATTER POINT WHEN ELEMENTS OF THE ITALIAN PRESS SOUGHT TO DISTORT OUR POSITION. MUCH TO MY SATISFACTION, PRESIDENT PERTINI SAID HE WAS QUOTE GRATEFUL ENDQUOTE FOR THE WAY THE U.S. WAS CONDUCTING ITS POLICY TOWARD ITALY. GARDNER

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